

Appl. No. : 09/137,198
Filed : August 20, 1998

REMARKS

The July 9, 2004 Office Action was based upon pending Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-30. This Amendment cancels Claims 25-30. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-24 are pending and presented for further consideration.

Claim Rejections

In the July 9, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Further, Claims 25, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida, U.S. Patent No. 4,815,121, in view of Davis, U.S. Patent No. 5,444,770 and further in view of van Driest, U.S. Patent No. 6,115,411.

Claims 27, 29 and 30 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Davis and further in view of van Driest and further in view of Sumner.

Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-24 were allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter - Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-24

The Examiner allowed Claim 1-9, 11-18 and 20-24. Given that this is a Final Office Action, Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims. Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-24 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants have endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested.

Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without entry of such amendments. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9/27/04

By: John R. King

John R. King
Registration No. 34,362
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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